

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of enabling removal of a removable medium of a boot device included in
2 a computer system when booting a boot operating system, the method comprising:
3 executing a boot device driver program, the boot device driver program being
4 executed by the boot operating system of the computer system to configure a
5 RAM disk;
6 copying contents of a boot sector of the removable medium to the RAM disk using
7 the boot device driver program; and
8 modifying the boot operating system using the boot device driver program to redirect
9 the boot media I/O to the RAM disk, the modified boot operating system
10 enabling the removal of the removable medium.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the removable medium is an optical disc.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein memory of the computer system comprises the
2 RAM disk memory allocated to emulate a hard disk.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the booted boot operating system enables the
2 removable medium to operate as a backing store for the boot operating system, wherein the
3 removable medium is normally locked.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the boot operating system enables the
2 RAM disk to operate as a backing store for the boot operating system, wherein the removable
3 medium is normally unlocked.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the boot operating system is a 32-bit operating
2 system.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the 32-bit operating system is a Microsoft
2 Windows NT™, Windows 2000™, Windows XP™ or Linux.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the execution of the boot device driver program
 2 further comprises:
 3 determining size of the emulated hard disk defined by the boot sector size;
 4 configuring a memory size of the RAM disk prior to the copying of the contents of the
 5 boot sector, wherein the configured RAM disk memory size is consistent with
 6 the size of the emulated hard disk.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the boot operating system enables
 2 loading of a second removable medium of the computer system on removal of the removable
 3 medium.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the second removable medium includes an image
 2 of a preferred operating system of the computer system.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the boot operating system comprises
 2 modifying a device manager included in the boot operating system.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein modifying the device manager comprises
 2 modifying values for an ARC name and at least one physical disk information table
 3 associated with the boot operating system.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the contents of the boot sector comprise the boot
 2 operating system and the boot device driver program stored as an embedded image.

1 14. A computer system comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory comprises a RAM disk
4 memory allocated to emulate a hard disk;
5 a removable medium of a boot device, wherein the boot device is coupled to the
6 processor and the memory, wherein a boot sector of the removable medium
7 comprises an embedded image of a boot operating system;
8 a boot device driver program executable by the boot operating system
9 and enabled to modify the boot operating system to redirect boot device I/O to
10 the RAM disk, wherein the modified boot operating system enables the
11 removal of the removable medium.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the removable medium is an optical disc.

1 16. The system of claim 14, wherein the memory includes the RAM disk memory
2 allocated to emulate a hard disk.

1 17. The system of claim 14, wherein the booted boot operating system enables the
2 removable medium to operate as a backing store for the boot operating system, wherein the
3 removable medium is normally locked.

1 18. The system of claim 14, wherein modifying the boot operating system enables the
2 RAM disk to operate as a backing store for the boot operating system, wherein the removable
3 medium is normally unlocked.

1 19. The system of claim 14, wherein the boot operating system is a 32-bit operating
2 system.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the 32-bit operating system is a Microsoft
2 Windows NT™, Windows 2000™, Windows XP™ or Linux.